

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

SB 2621 - HB 3200

February 9, 2010

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes local education agencies (LEAs) to perform random drug testing on students who participate in extracurricular activities. Requires LEAs performing testing to have drug assistance and counseling programs in place at LEA expense. Requires LEAs to use existing resources to supply testing materials and counseling.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Expenditures - \$355,200/Permissive

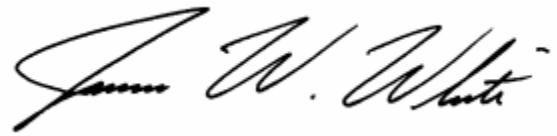
Assumptions:

- State funded drug student assistance programs will continue to be funded where applicable. No new state student assistance programs will be funded if new LEAs decide to begin performing random drug testing.
- LEAs that perform random drug testing will do so within existing resources. LEAs that chose to drug test will decrease spending in other programs or shift funding away from other programs to perform drug testing. Additional resources will be allocated to existing programs to prevent reduction in services.
- According to the Department of Education (DOE) and the Comptroller, all extracurricular activities will be included, not just athletics.
- It is unknown how many LEAs will participate in random drug testing.
- The cost of a basic drug test ranges from \$25 to \$45.
- In school year 2008-09 there were approximately 484,100 students were in grades six through twelve.
- It is estimated that approximately 50 percent of those students (242,050) participated in extracurricular activities and approximately five percent (12,103) will be randomly tested at \$25 per test. Estimated permissive increase in local expenditures for drug testing will be approximately \$302,575.
- The cost of a drug referral program will vary according to the location of the student, number of times the student goes to counseling, etc. Students Taking a Right Stand (STARS) Nashville estimates a cost of approximately \$87 for a one-time assessment and intervention treatment and approximately \$518 for one semester of counseling.
- If five percent of the students tested (605) were referred to a program at a cost of \$87 per student, the local increase in permissive expenditures will be \$52,635.

- Total increase in permissive local expenditures will be approximately \$355,210.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

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